

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

transmitting a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system;
transmitting audio with the access request, wherein the audio includes speech; and
terminating the audio transmission in the event the access request is denied.

Claim 2 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting audio includes transmitting the audio immediately following transmission of the access request.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting audio includes transmitting the audio before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted or denied.

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting audio includes transmitting the audio without receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted or denied.

Claim 5 (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the audio transmission serves as the access request.

Claim 6 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted during transmission of the audio.

Claim 7 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the denial of the access request from an arbitration controller.

Claim 8 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the audio to the broadcast link via wireless network equipment.

Claim 9 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising receiving the denial of the access request from a wireless communication device in the system via a wireless base station.

Claim 10 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising generating the denial of the access request within a wireless communication device that presently has access to the broadcast link.

Claim 11 (Original): The method of claim 1, further comprising transmitting the access request in response to actuation of a push-to-talk input medium associated with a wireless communication device.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:
receiving a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system;
receiving audio with the access request, wherein the audio includes speech; and
transmitting the audio via the broadcast link in the event the access request is granted.

Claim 13 (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising discarding the audio in the event the access request is denied.

Claim 14 (Original): The method of claim 12, wherein receiving audio includes receiving the audio immediately following transmission of the access request.

Claim 15 (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising transmitting an indication that the access request is granted after receiving the audio.

Claim 16 (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising transmitting an indication that the access request is denied after receiving the audio.

Claim 17 (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising interpreting at least a portion of the audio transmission as the access request.

Claim 18 (Original): The method of claim 12, further comprising:
transmitting the access request to a wireless communication device in the system; and
receiving an indication that the access request is denied from the wireless communication device.

Claim 19 (Original): The method of claim 18, wherein transmitting the access request includes transmitting the access request to a wireless communication device that presently has access to the broadcast link.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): A wireless communication device comprising:
a wireless transmitter; and
a processor that controls the transmitter to transmit a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system, transmit audio with the access request, and terminate the audio transmission in the event the access request is denied, wherein the audio includes speech.

Claim 21 (Original): The device of claim 20, wherein the processor controls the transmitter to transmit the audio immediately following transmission of the access request.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 20, wherein the processor controls the transmitter to transmit the audio before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted or denied.

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The device of claim 20, wherein the processor controls the transmitter to transmit the audio without receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted or denied.

Claim 24 (Original): The device of claim 20, wherein at least a portion of the audio transmission serves as the access request.

Claim 25 (Original): The device of claim 20, wherein the transmitter transmits the audio to the broadcast link via wireless network equipment.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): An arbitration controller for a point-to-multipoint communication system, the arbitration controller comprising a processor that receives a request for access to a broadcast link from a wireless communication device in a point-to-multipoint communication system, wherein the wireless communication device transmits audio with the request for access, the processor determining whether to grant the access request, and directing transmission of the audio via the broadcast link in the event the access request is granted, wherein the audio includes speech.

Claim 27 (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor directs discarding of the audio in the event the access request is denied.

Claim 28 (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor directs transmission of an indication that the access request is granted or denied.

Claim 29 (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the transmitter transmits an indication that the access request is granted or denied.

Claim 30 (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor interprets at least a portion of the audio transmission as the access request.

Claim 31 (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor resides within a wireless communication device in the point-to-multipoint communication system.

Claim 32 (Original): The device of claim 26, wherein the processor resides within a network server in a wide area network associated with network equipment in the point-to-multipoint communication system.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable medium carrying instructions that cause a processor in a wireless communication device in a point-to-multipoint communication system to:

- transmit a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system;
- transmit audio with the access request, wherein the audio includes speech; and
- terminate the audio transmission in the event the access request is denied.

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable medium carrying instructions that cause a processor in network equipment in a point-to-multipoint communication system to:

- receive a request for access to a broadcast link in the point-to-multipoint communication system;
- receive audio with the access request, wherein the audio includes speech; and
- direct transmission of the audio via the broadcast link in the event the access request is granted.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

- transmitting a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication system from a wireless communication device;
- receiving audio from a user of the wireless communication device;
- transmitting the audio from the wireless communication device before receiving an acknowledgement that the access request is granted or denied; and
- terminating the audio transmission if a denial of the access request is received, wherein the audio includes speech.

Claim 36 (Previously Presented): The method of claim 35, wherein at least a portion of the audio transmission serves as the access request.

Claim 37 (Currently Amended): A method comprising:

transmitting a request for access to a broadcast link in a point-to-multipoint communication network from a wireless communication device to network equipment;
receiving audio from a user of the wireless communication device;
transmitting the audio from the wireless communication device to the network equipment before the access request is granted or denied; and
terminating the audio transmission and discarding the transmitted audio if the access request is denied, wherein the audio includes speech.